

Exhortation to the Citizens of London in 1657.

"Thus much in general; for yourselves in particular, as God hath made you a city, so do ye principle out goodness to the land; for a shame it were for the sourest fruit to grow upon the top-branch, or the worst scholars to be in the upper form. Shall ye be taught duty from abroad, or learn conscience of the country? Shall the man in russet direct thee in thy furs, the leathern girdle instruct the gold chain? Shall there be more noble motions and pious resolutions in the rural swain than the citizen? Shalt thou mind nothing but the vent of thy ware, and the sale of thy merchandise? yes, thou hast another trade to look after; a citizen should show to his customers the best patterns of holy life, and open the packs of religious precedents; a city should be the burse and magazine of virtuous demeanours, or else it will be said, that the citizen doth study nothing but himself, and that his counting-house is his conscience, and his penny his God. Oh, therefore God hath given you honour; maintain your honour, let the great wheel of virtue stir here, and the morning star of grace shine here. Let not the miry ways be cleaner than your paved streets, and the thatched sheds be neater built than your tiled houses. Let not the countryman, when he cometh amongst you, be loathed with the smell of your intemperance, or recoil at the sight of your fraud, or blush at your neutralizing, or be ready to deride your pride, or to hiss at your malice, or to freeze with your indevotion, or to drop down dead with seeing the blood of oppression sprinkled upon the stones of your streets; but prepare choice sights for the countryman's eye, that he may go home, and say, I have seen the phoenix of religion, the paradise of piety, the temple of the Holy Ghost, the suburbs of heaven; I have learned grace out of every citizen's mouth, and bought bargains of sanctity at every shop, enough to stock myself and supply all my neighbours. Thus shall ye show yourselves to be a flourishing city, when ye are as full of professors as traders; and of saints as merchants; when ye have trafficked for godliness at every port, and fetched home the true pearl farther than the Indies."